

# City of Santa Fe

## Mayor Javier M. Gonzales



## 2015 Youth Summit



Santa Fe, a City that  
Cares about Kids!

# The 2015 City of Santa Fe Youth Summit Report

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## **I. Introduction**

The following report outlines the planning process, the agenda, and the outcomes of the 2015 City of Santa Fe Youth Summit. The purpose of the Youth Summit was to invite youth from all socioeconomic backgrounds to discuss in-depth issues and concerns young people face in Santa Fe and to create a “Call to Action” plan that outlines solutions to improve the quality of life for youth in Santa Fe.

Prior to the 2015 Youth Summit, the City of Santa Fe’s Children and Youth Commission in partnership with the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Board partnered with Story of Place Institute, a local nonprofit youth organization to develop and administer a youth survey throughout Santa Fe for the purpose of identifying areas of concern, needs and wants of our youth.

As a result of the survey, the Children and Youth Commission and Mayor’s Youth Advisory Board partnered with Eagle Rock Professional Development Center. Eagle Rock is a national leader in youth advocacy and works closely with school districts and youth services organizations across the United States to help those entities create healthy, high-functioning learning environments with the aim to improve student engagement.

Eagle Rock hosted several group training and facilitation sessions with a group of twenty (20) youth ages 14-20 who were identified as leaders and advocates within their schools or community.

Three hundred youth throughout Santa Fe to include private, public, tribal and charter high schools, and local disconnected and homeless youth participated in a day-long Summit. During the Summit, the youth leaders’ facilitated discussions with participants on the 12 identified priority areas of change revealed by the 2015 Youth Survey and worked towards creating a “Call to Action Plan.”

## II. Philosophy

### *Purpose and Goals of the Youth Summit*

Mayor Javier M. Gonzales, the Santa Fe City Council, the Children and Youth Commission and Mayor's Youth Advisory Board partnered with a local nonprofit "Story of Place Institute" and recruited a group of youth from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds for the purpose of designing and implementing a youth-led survey. The survey was used to gauge the insight of youth's concerns, needs and wants and to ensure meaningful youth participation.

(<http://www.sharenm.org/communityplatform/newmexico/page/empoweringyouth>)



Based on the results of the Youth Survey administered in April 2015, we identified 12 priority areas relating to the needs, wants and/or concerns youth face throughout the community. We then partnered with Eagle Rock Professional Development Center, a national leader in youth advocacy to help us design and lead our 2015 Youth Summit. Eagle Rock led a series of focused groups with the twenty-identified youth leaders regarding the 12 priority areas with the intent of provoking in-depth discussion, analysis and problem-solving ideas to be discussed during the 2015 Youth Summit. Additionally, Eagle Rock School trained the Youth Leaders on group facilitation, ice-breaker activities, and action planning techniques.

The goal of the Youth Summit was to strategically design 12 different breakout sessions, as it related to the 12 priority areas. The intent of the breakout sessions were for the youth leaders to create focused discussion, encourage in-depth brainstorming and create initial action steps around the priority topic selected as their key concern.

### **III. The Planning Process**

#### **Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (MYAB).**

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Board is an official City of Santa Fe Youth Board that provides input, suggestions or recommendation to the City Council and Mayor pertaining to matters affecting youth in the community.

Because the Youth Summit was a youth-driven event, the initial step in the planning process was to contract a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated successful experience in leading youth in focus group discussions and had the ability to create, administer and analyze focused surveys. In partnership with the Children and Youth Commission, the MYAB contracted Story of Place a local nonprofit organization.

**Design of a Youth-led Survey with Youth Leaders.** Upon the contracting of Story of Place, the MYAB set off to recruit a diversified group of youth leaders to participate in a day-long retreat to discuss needs, wants and concerns of youth throughout Santa Fe. MYAB focused on recruiting youth from all facets of community including those attending private schools, public schools and local programs that work with disconnected youth. MYAB recruited 20 youth, who would be participating in a day-long youth-led discussion, as it related to needs, wants and concerns.

In March 2015, Story of Place successfully led a day-long retreat with the 20 youth and discussed issues, concerns or needs of youth within the community. Youth were recruited from the following schools and/or organizations:

- Santa Fe High School
- St. Michael's High School
- Mayor's Youth Advisory Board
- Santa Fe Community College – The Master's Program
- Youth Shelters and Family Services – Access Program
- Santa Fe County Juvenile Detention Center – Day Reporting Program
- YouthWorks



**2015 Youth Survey and Identification of Twelve Priority Issue Areas.** As a result of this day-long retreat, youth identified the most common needs, wants and concerns they face in the community to include, but not limited to: Bullying, Lack of Community Activities, Mentorship Options, Support for Homeless Youth, Job Opportunities for Youth, etc. The findings of this day-long retreat provided for the framework to design and complete the 2015 Youth Survey.

In May 2015, Story of Place in partnership with the Children and Youth Commission and Santa Fe Public Schools administered the 2015 Youth Survey designed by the twenty youth representatives. As a result of the survey, youth identified the following as the key areas of focus throughout the community:

1. Job Opportunities for Youth
2. Alleviate Financial Stress
3. Mentorship Options
4. Lack of Community Activities
5. Bullying
6. Support for Homeless Youth
7. Immigrant and Hispanic/Latino Educational Opportunities
8. Youth Political Involvement
9. Healthier Food in Schools
10. Kid's P.E
11. Sports for Girls
12. School Funding

## 2015 Mayor's Youth Summit and Partnership with Eagle Rock for Training Youth Leaders.

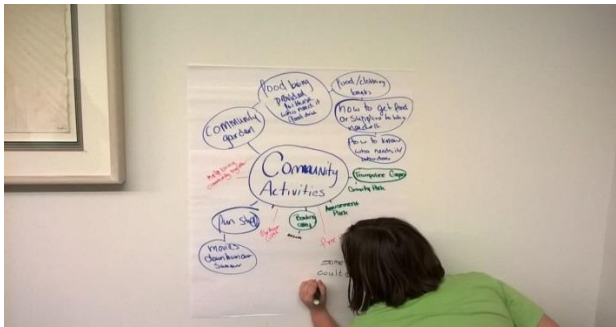
During the summer of 2015, MYAB, the Children and Youth Commission and the recruited youth partnered with Eagle Rock Professional Development, a national leader in youth advocacy and training.

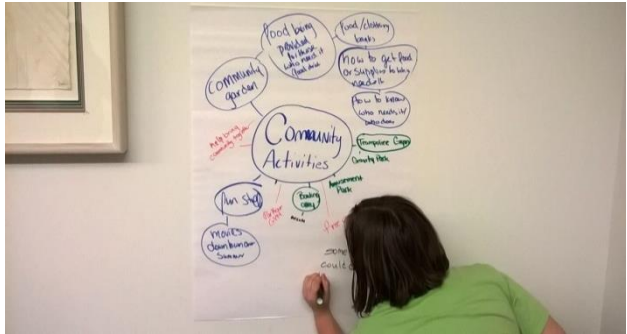
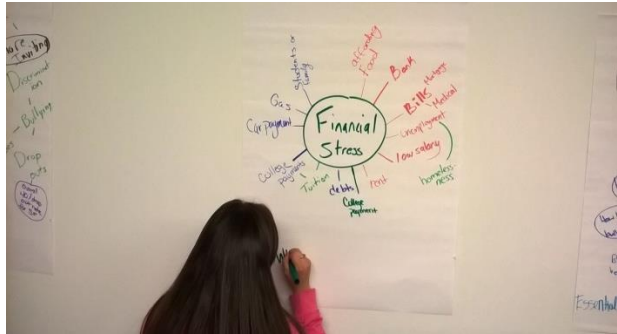
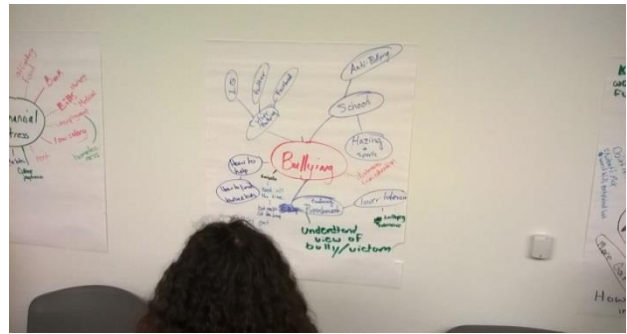
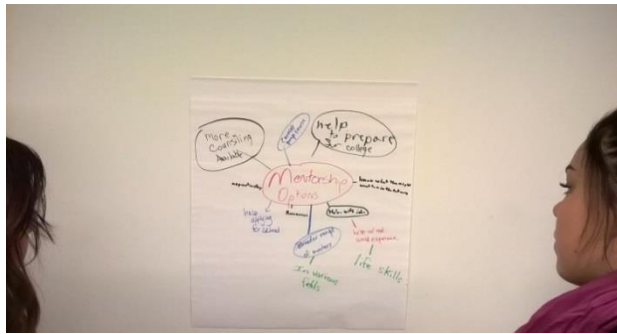


Eagle Rock's goal in partnership with Children and Youth Commission and MYAB was to train the youth on group facilitation skills with a strong focus on development of initial action plans to address the need, want or concern identified as key priority areas revealed by the 2015 Youth Survey, which was discussed during the 2015 Fall Youth Summit.



Eagle Rock hosted a series of training sessions that prepared each of the youth to facilitate focused group discussion regarding their selected priority topic and prepared each youth with the ability to design action plans in partnership with other youth to address the needs, concerns or wants outlined within the 2015 Youth Summit.





#### IV. The Youth Summit Participants

Before beginning the recruitment of Youth Summit participants, the MYAB, Children and Youth Commission and Santa Fe Public Schools representatives first had to identify what type of participant would be needed and necessary to contribute to the Youth Summit. Then the goal was to create an action plan that identified goals, objectives, action steps and outcomes for each of the priority areas.



It was decided that the voices of all teens was critical, as MYAB wanted to create an action plan that would meet the needs, wants and concerns of all youth throughout Santa Fe. The “Youth” is defined as being between the ages of 13 to 18 years old. Another critical component to the recruitment process was that the youth had to be representative of the demographics of Santa Fe - from all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. The final component to the recruitment process was to identify which critical “adult” leaders in the community needed to be a part of the process to assist the youth facilitators within their group discussions.





**Recruitment.** MYAB and Children and Youth Commission convened a series of independent meetings with Public, Private and Charter School Officials and Local Juvenile Justice and Nonprofit Organizations who specialized in working with disconnected youth.

The team formulated the purpose and rationale of the Youth Summit and asked the schools and organizations to select youth with whom they thought would be great participants and contributors to the Summit. Organizations were encouraged to select youth between the ages of 13 to 18, as we wanted to ensure that all voices were represented during the Summit.

In addition, the team met and discussed what Community Leaders needed to be included and recruited to participate in the Youth Summit. The team agreed that the leaders had to be stakeholders who could assist the youth in pushing forth their action plans either through policy or funding.

300 youth were recruited from the following areas: All Santa Fe Public Schools, All Santa Fe Charter Schools, St. Michaels High School, Santa Fe Prep, New Mexico School for the Deaf, Santa Fe Indian School, YouthWorks, Youth Shelters, Santa Fe County Juvenile Detention Center, Santa Fe Community College.



The 15 leaders selected as co-facilitators were as follows: Mayor Javier Gonzales, City Councilors Carmichael Dominguez and Ron Trujillo, Santa Fe Public School Board Member Susan Duncan, Santa Fe Community College President Randy Grissom, Santa Fe County Assessor Gus Martinez, Children and Youth Commission Chair Joanne Lefrak, NM Children and Youth Families Department Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Ted Lovato, NM Secretary of Workforce Solutions Celina Bussey, Santa Fe Chief of Police Patrick Gallaher, City of Santa Fe Community Services Department Director Issac Pino, New Mexico Voices for Children Policy and Research Analyst Armelle Casau, Brindle Foundation Manager, Kim Straus, Christus St.

Vincent's Vice President of Mission and Spirituality Kathy Armijo Etre, Santa Fe Police Department, Chief Patrick Gallagher and Santa Fe Teen Court Director Jennifer Romero.



## V. The Summit

**The Identified Goals of the Youth Summit.** When planning the Youth Summit, our youth leaders discussed and prioritized the following goals and requirements:

- The Summit had to be broken into manageable breakout sessions consisting of no more than 20 youth per session.
- Each group had to be facilitated by a youth facilitator and supported by an adult co-facilitator.
- Each of the 12 identified priorities areas were to be addressed within 2 one-hour breakout sessions and each youth facilitator needed to be proficient with their chosen topic.
- Initial Action Plans needed to be developed during the breakout sessions.
- Time needed to be allocated for a meal and entertainment
- Most important goal, ensure that all youth voices were heard and captured with the action planning component of the breakout sessions.
- Have fun!

**Youth Summit Facilitators and Co-Facilitators.** Because the Youth Summit was a limited to day-long event, youth facilitators and co-facilitators felt that even though we had planned for a concert and lunch, the youth participants had to be broken into 15-20 youth per session with an hour long data-driven and focused-discussion agenda. Because the Summit had 300 youth participants, we had to create two one-hour breakout sessions per facilitator and co-facilitator.



**Welcome Kick-off.** The Youth Summit kicked off at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Mayor Javier M. Gonzales welcomed all youth participants and guests. Mayor Gonzales talked about the importance of the youth voice throughout our community and how he and his administration are focused on improving the overall well-being for youth throughout the community. Mayor Gonzales stated that he is prepared and committed to working toward the action plans that will be forthcoming as a result of the Youth Summit. New Mexico Secretary of Workforce Solutions Celina Bussey spoke to the importance of the youth voice and how an education leads to workforce development and career pathways. Secretary Bussey indicated that her office is committed to helping youth across New Mexico to prepare for and find employment. City Councilor Carmichael Dominguez spoke to his life's commitment to making Santa Fe a better place for youth. He indicated that he was excited about the Youth Summit and the outcomes that were to be forthcoming related to action planning for the 12 priority areas. He stated that the youth have his full commitment to working toward improving the overall well-being for youth throughout Santa Fe. Michael Soguero, Director of Professional Development, Eagle Rock, then laid out the agenda for the Summit.





Once the ground rules were established, youth facilitators led ice-breaker activities in an effort to begin building relationships and trust with their participants/groups. The facilitators then moved into each of their priority topics. Data, graphs, and experiences were all shared and groups were tasked with developing action plans to address the concern, need or want.



After developing action steps/plans, the breakout groups rejoined the entire group for lunch and a concert. Youth participants enjoyed lunch provided by Real Burger and a concert performed by A.M.C Nobody's Alone, a musical group out of Albuquerque NM, whose focus is eliminating Bullying.





After entertainment and lunch, the groups rejoined for the each of the groups' share outs.





**Closing.** At this point in the afternoon, Youth Summit participants, facilitators and co-facilitators were exhausted from the work conducted during the Summit. Eagle Rock shared a couple of videos related to youth movements across the country and encouraged all youth to continue to work hard to make the changes in the community they worked on today. Each of the breakout groups summarized their discussion, suggestions and initial action plans related to their priority area.



## **VI. Call to Action Plans**

As noted previously, the 2015 Youth Survey identified 12 areas needing support. The following pages summarize the outcome of the Youth Summit discussions including the Call to Action Plans identified in each topic area:

1. Job Opportunities for Youth
2. Alleviate Financial Stress
3. Mentorship Options
4. Lack of Community Activities
5. Bullying
6. Support for Homeless Youth
7. Immigrant and Hispanic/Latino Educational Opportunities
8. Youth Political Involvement
9. Healthier Food in Schools
10. Kid's P.E
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## **Topic: 1. Job Opportunities**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is a lack of job opportunities within the City of Santa Fe.

### **Barriers:**

- Because of the high minimum wage, youth aren't able to compete with older, more experienced individuals
- Lack of skills and/or work experience that employers are requiring for their vacancies or lack of educational degree required for the job that some youth, who have dropped out of school, do not qualify
- Fluency in English or other language limitations
- Access to transportation
- Judgement on appearances –tattoos, piercings etc.
- Trying to balance school and work

### **Action Steps:**

- Design and implement a Job Center that would:
  - Train on standard of holding a job
  - Educate the youth about businesses who employ youth
  - Teach and assist youth with filling out applications
  - Teach job interview skills - what to wear, what to expect during an interview
  - Inform about businesses that provide job shadowing and/or internships
  - Make it more feasible to work while staying in school ie) receive school credit for working or work study

## **Topic: 2. Alleviate Financial Stress**

**Concern/Need/Want:** More and more youth in Santa Fe are experiencing poverty, which is leading to higher rates of truancy, drop-outs, criminal activity, substance abuse, hunger, health and mental health issues.

### **Barriers:**

- Children who live in poverty don't have the same access to opportunities and support systems
- Families have a hard time affording health care benefits
- Families sometimes don't have food
- Families live in substandard housing
- Families receive lower wages
- Youth have fewer job opportunities
- Can't afford childcare so youth are dropping out to either stay home with younger sibling/s and/or looking for work to help the family

### **Action Steps:**

- Design and implement career pathways, job training and apprentice programs for traditional and non-traditional to help youth and parents develop the tools and skills they need to succeed
- Design a program that will help families afford basic necessities as well as large expenses such as job training programs or a car repair
- Find ways to help families receive paid family, maternity and sick leave options for their mom and dad, as well as a work schedule for parents to take care of children in times of need without the threat of losing employment and a secure source of income for their families.
- Provide incentives to keep youth involved in school to include tutoring and after-school programs that focus on alleviating financial stress
- Provide easier access to supplies and meals
- Provide financial classes to include: Budgeting, Checking and Saving Accounts, filling out financial forms, etc.

### **Topic: 3. Mentorship Options**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is a lack of adults who can be positive mentors to them. Additionally, Youth indicated that there is no true peer-to-peer or adult-peer mentorship program in Santa Fe.

#### **Barriers:**

- Lack of communication as it relates to mentors in schools/community
- Feel as though youth's voice is not important or not welcomed
- No real adult/youth positive interactions
- Lack of meeting with youth to identify needs, wants or issues
- No follow-through by adults
- Only time adults meet with us is when we are in trouble
- No guidance or real support from teachers

#### **Action Steps:**

- Partner with schools, government and community to develop an inclusive mentorship program that includes, but not limited to mentors from the following areas:
  - Academics
  - Sports
  - Medicine
  - Architecture
  - Mechanics
  - Engineering
  - College Prep
  - Music
  - Art
  - Photography
  - Business
  - Culinary Arts
  - Leadership
- Develop a peer-to-peer mentorship program
- Develop a program that teaches life skills, confidence, new experiences and knowledge, connections and exposure to career fields through mentorships
- Work with schools to help teachers learn how to be a mentor to students
- Create a campaign with mentorship programs to attract more volunteers to become mentors and inform youth about mentorship programs throughout Santa Fe

#### **Topic: 4. Lack of Community Activities**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is a lack of youth-driven activities, places to hangout for fun in Santa Fe or a center where youth can access resources.

#### **Barriers:**

- Santa Fe is built more for tourists than teens
- Not all teens participate or receive notification of Teen Night Activities/Events
- Lack of or no space dedicated to all youth
- No place for young parents to hang-out that has child care
- No Center or place for teens to gather to discuss life issues, essential needs, socialize or get help with tutoring or educational support and/or job searches
- No Arcade/Trampoline Gym/Putt Putt or any other fun activities for youth
- Recreational Centers/Movie Theaters are unaffordable
- Closest bowling alley is in Pojoaque
- Youth are not working together to voice their needs and wants
- No safe and neutral place for creating graffiti

#### **Action Steps:**

- Design and Implement a Teen Resources Center that contains the following:
  - Job Center
  - Educational Support to include Tutoring, help with Financial Aid, College navigating or being reconnected to a non-traditional educational pathway
  - Technology Room - Computers and Printers
  - Teen Café – space to hangout and eat
  - Life Skill and Financial Training
  - Entertainment: Concerts, Pool Tables, Ping Pong Tables, Basketball Courts, etc.
  - Mentors/Councilors/Family Support
- Locate and implement a Graffiti Building, which is dedicated to mural art for youth
- Create a music and dance club
- Bring back a drive-in theater
- Bring a Putt-Putt and also local facilities like Itz, Cool Springz, Gravity Park, Laser Tag, Paintball, Volleyball Courts
- Movie Nights for Teens
- Bring in more concerts for Teens
- Create a Video Game Competitive Gaming Location (E-sport)/Arcade

## **Topic: 5. Bullying**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that bullying is one of the biggest epidemics they face, which is leading to truancy, dropping-out of school, suicide attempts and substance abuse.

### **Barriers:**

- Students have repeatedly reported bullying to school officials to only have it get worse
- No system is place for parents and/or student to access or use to stop bullying
- When reported, the bully and the person being bullied are not separated and no notification is made to parents about the situation, investigation or precautions that will be taken to protect the student being bullied
- No follow-up with the student/s reporting the bullying
- Lack of training or information being provided to parents and/or students on what bullying is and how to report it and stop it
- Teachers target and bully students
- School bus transportation is where bullies target their victims
- Language barriers for parents and students to know their rights

### **Action Steps:**

- Conduct a student survey to determine the following:
  - percentage of students who are bullied
  - understand or know how to report bullying
  - ways to feel safe
- Focus on having student assemblies at all grade levels to talk about bullying
- Create a support group for students who have been or are currently being bullied
- Establish a 24hr, 7 days a week hotline, where students could report bullying
- Provide current up-to-date training for teachers, principals and parents on all the steps of reporting the bullying, a system established for protecting the student and a follow-up process to inform the student being bullied of the actions or steps taken to stop the bullying incident.
- Provide help for the bully
- Have schools show anti-bullying movies. Maybe create an anti-bullying movie with local students to spread the message.
- Have inspirational speakers talk to students about bullying
- Adults need to listen to the kids!

## **Topic: 6. Homeless Youth**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is a growing number of homeless youth in Santa Fe.

### **Barriers:**

- Schools aren't educated in identifying youth who are homeless or don't care
- Homeless youth are:
  - afraid to tell or acknowledge that they are homeless
  - afraid or ashamed to seek help
  - lack understanding or knowledge of systems that can help them
- Homeless youth don't have proper school records, which often leads to incorrect classroom placement
- Homeless youth have difficulty staying at the same school for an entire school year
- Homeless youth don't have access or know where to access medical, mental health, eye or dental care
- Lack of thorough screening of background checks for foster parents

### **Action Steps:**

- Partner with public schools and conduct ongoing training as it relates to homeless youth
- Create a better system to identify homeless youth students and provide help
- Create a partnership with homeless youth and NM CYFD to discuss background checks and foster parents. Homeless youth can help CYFD learn what happens with foster parents who aren't screened properly
- Create a support group for homeless youth to help them understand how to navigate systems that will help them.
- Work with Homeless Youth Shelter to promote independence and job, tax and general education
- Work with Food Depot to provide more routine food-drives to improve homeless youth health
- Develop a homeless youth campaign for other homeless youth to know that we care and want to help with essential needs
- Work with government to develop a wrap around support system that includes health and mental health care, housing, utilities, reengagement, alternative educational pathways, work, internships or apprenticeships, childcare and parenting classes, etc.
- Create dorms specific for homeless youth

## **Topic: 7. Immigrant Youth and Hispanic/Latino Educational Opportunities**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth who are Latino/Hispanic or immigrants are more likely to drop-out of school, not attend college or find a career within Santa Fe.

### **Barriers:**

- No programs geared or targeted for immigrants within public schools
- Classes being taught are taught in English, not in Spanish aside from ESL
- Lack of Bilingual Teachers in schools
- Feel out of place/not accepted
- Not able to speak Spanish because school faculty is not bilingual
- Continual bullying of immigrants in schools
- Resources in schools and community do not match immigrants needs
- Lack of support/counseling with someone who speaks and understands Spanish
- Lack of awareness as it relates to immigrants
- Hard to access or receive work permits
- Lack of Spanish speaking college or career counselors

### **Action Steps:**

- Work with schools, colleges, government agencies and community to design programs that target the needs and wants of immigrant youth
- Work with schools to develop Spanish speaking classes
- Work on recruiting Spanish speaking teachers
- Develop a program that helps eliminate bullying
- Create a campaign that brings together immigrant youth to work on an awareness campaign and identify what additional resources are needed that are in alignment with their needs and motivations/passions/goals
- Create a youth-immigration day
- Work with community-based programs to help parents learn English
- Create a Center that provides resources to help immigrants with resources, work readiness, job placement, college or trades, career pathways, etc.

## **Topic: 8. Youth Political Involvement**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is no designated space in Santa Fe to engage youth in politics nor groups or committees that keep up-to-date with political movements as it pertains to youth in our community.

### **Barriers:**

- Youth's voice is not included into policies and/or legislation, especially when it pertains to children and youth
- There is no identified space or formal club/organization that focuses on politics here in Santa Fe
- Youth do not understand how their involvement in politics shapes the outcomes of legislation, funding, programs, services, etc.
- Youth do not understand the significance of voting
- Youth that are interested in being politically involved have no idea how to or where to start

### **Action Steps:**

- Create a club in each school that engages youth in political activities. Create these clubs throughout the State of NM and meet periodically throughout the year to reflect and discuss topics related to political movements, elections, etc.
- Create a seat on the School Board/City Council/Santa Fe County Commission for a youth to represent
- Create a club that would watch debates and keep up with civics for those who are interested
- Create a community-wide campaign to inform youth about the importance of voting and getting involved.



## **Topic: 9. Healthier Food in Schools**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is a growing rate of health issues to include: obesity, high blood pressure, etc. among youth in the community and a lack of nutritious food being provided at school.

### **Barriers:**

- Lack of funding and prioritizing healthy and nutritious food and snacks in public schools
- Not enough time to prepare or cook healthy meals
- Limited time to teach nutrition because teachers have to focus on meeting state academic standards
- Implementing healthier foods runs the risk of students buying fewer lunches resulting in loss of needed revenue
- Schools pay for special activities or other items not covered in school budget with profits from vending machines and/or snack bar sales

### **Action Steps:**

- Fundraising to get healthier foods in schools
- Donations or discounts from farmers for healthier foods
- Encourage healthy eating habits at home
- Develop and implement community gardens
- Implement healthier and fresher foods in schools
- Restrict other less healthy food choices in the lunch and snack menu and vending machines
- Work with schools to modify recipes to lower fat content in popular foods
- Encourage health eating by integrating nutrition lessons into reading and math classes
- Enlist help from parents, community organizations and businesses

## **Topic: 10. Kids Physical Education in Schools**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is a lack of Physical Education in Schools.

### **Barriers:**

- P.E. is not an essential or core part of academics
- Lack of funding designated to P.E.
- P.E. is not a requirement
- Bullying takes place during P.E./Recess
- Lack of P.E./Physical activity has contributed to poor physical and mental health
- With the decreased physical activity in schools, inappropriate classroom behavior has increased.

### **Action Steps:**

- Partner with schools and design strategies to incorporate more physical activities through the school day
- Meet with School Board and create a partnership to bring more physical activities/P.E. back to schools because it increases academic success, better physical and mental health, and social development
- Partner with community to find more funding to help schools with:
  - P.E. Teachers
  - Equipment
  - Uniforms
  - Shoes
- For schools that have some sort of P.E./Physical Activities, develop activities that all students can participate in.
- For schools that don't have P.E./Physical Activities, partner with community programs to provide recreational activities to students.

## **Topic: 11. Sports for Girls**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicate that sports and sporting activities are more geared for boys, rather than it being equal for girls.

### **Barriers:**

- Lack of female coaches
- Lack of funding for both genders, so funding is allocated to boys.
- Media focuses on boy sporting events and athletes
- Lack of co-ed sport teams

### **Action Steps:**

- Work with schools to understand how funding is divided between male and female sports
- Survey all sports and verify how many female coaches are coaching. Create a campaign to recruit more female coaches
- Work with media to cover more female sports and athletes. Maybe create a “Female athlete of the Week” section in the newspaper
- Create co-ed sports teams
- Designate specific places for girls to play sports

## **Topic: 12. School Funding (& Other)**

**Concern/Need/Want:** Youth indicated that there is not enough funding within public schools or college and would like to know where money is being spent or how to access money.

### **Barriers:**

- Lack of art, music, computers and software in all schools
- Text Books being used are from the 1990's and should be replaced
- Cannot access or receive any help in understanding where and what school funding is being spent on
- Teachers aren't being paid what they should be; therefore instruction is lacking in the classrooms
- **Other:** Truancy and Dropout rates are increasing

### **Action Steps:**

- Partner with schools and create a system that includes youth in understanding where funding is being spent in schools
- Allow student/s to join School Board as a voting member
- Create partnerships with people who can fund or help fund extra-curricular activities: City, County, and Private funders and/or partner with the community to provide hands-on experiences, mentorships or other free extra-curricular activities
- Create fundraising projects
- Sign out computers or books to students and they are responsible for them
- Divert funds from things less important; cut testing; have renewable energy in schools, such a solar panels and solar roadways
- Create a survey for teachers and see why they need to be more successful in their jobs.

### **Other Action Steps**

- **Truancy:** Meet with youth who are truant or have dropped-out and find out why, what can be done to reconnect them and what needs to be put into place to keep youth from being truant or dropping-out of school
- **College Readiness:**
  - Create a program that helps youth understand what college is and how they can access money to pay for college
  - Create a program in public schools that ensure that youth are college ready

## VII. Moving Forward

**Presentations:** After the Youth Summit, the youth facilitators, in partnership with the MYAB, were left with the important questions of how to move forward with the outcomes and action plans presented at the Youth Summit. In an effort to spread awareness of the action plans, as a result of the Youth Summit, the youth leaders, in partnership with MYAB and the Children and Youth Commission, have designated where presentations will be conducted during 2016:

- City of Santa Fe Mayor's Youth Advisory Board
- City of Santa Fe Children and Youth Commission
- City of Santa Fe City Council
- Santa Fe County Commission
- Santa Fe Public School Board
- Santa Fe Community College Board
- Mayor Gonzales' Children, Youth and Family Community Cabinet

**Evaluation of the Youth Summit.** Following the Youth Summit, the youth facilitators, Eagle Rock, MYAB and Children and Youth Commission met and discussed the overall process.

Overall, participants, facilitators and co-facilitators felt that the process went well. The majority of the youth polled indicated that they felt that their voice was heard and were excited to see what outcomes would be achieved as a result of the Summit.

Eagle Rock did a great job in facilitating the training of the youth leaders leading up to the Youth Summit and did a great job supporting and motivating the youth leaders at the Summit.

Facilitators and co-facilitators did a great job and presented very well. It was evident that youth summit participants were engaged and contributing the in-depth discussions regarding the priority focus areas being discussed.

**Challenges.** Although the consensus was that the Youth Summit was a success, there were some challenges. The following items were identified as challenges:

- During the initial trainings provided by Eagle Rock for the youth leaders, it was difficult to ensure that all youth attended each training session in preparation for the Youth Summit. Because of school functions to include scholastic or sports, youth couldn't make every training session.
- Youth leaders wanted to partner with each other to facilitate the breakout sessions, as opposed to facilitating the sessions individually.
- Upon youth arriving to the Youth Summit, it became evident that the sign-in process was inadequate, as there was a large number of youth for a limited number of staff to correctly sign-in. Staff then had to follow-up with each attendee during the Summit to ensure that they were properly signed in.

- We encountered technology difficulties; therefore the video planned to be shown was not able to be seen by the participants.

## **VIII. Conclusion**

This report summarizes the creation and execution of the 2015 Youth Summit designed to bring our youth together to generate action plans to improve the needs, wants and concerns addressed through the Youth Summit. It outlines the planning, execution and follow-up stages of the Summit. It also presents the 12 priority areas with “Call to Action” plans identified by the youth throughout Santa Fe. The Summit demonstrates that young people can be involved in the planning of the day, and they can have a voice in identifying needs for change in their community. It also shows that youth can present those findings to a larger group of youth and community members.

We hope that this report and future Youth Summits inspire others to provide youth with opportunities to offer their voice to generate solutions to addressing their needs, wants and concerns. Although there is still work to be done, the Youth Summit helped begin a dialogue about addressing the needs, wants and concerns of youth within the community.